

I wait a moment longer, then turn
and walk along.

I hear one of them laugh, "I don't think
he liked that!"

I don't mind at all: at the age of 62
I can still kick ass
or
drink any of them under the
table.

close to the grave be damned, there's
not a one of them
I'd prefer to be.

it's a good afternoon.

I hope they solve their
engine.

-- Charles Bukowski

San Pedro CA

SPOUSAL SUPPORT

when i bring the beautiful german edition
of my selected works
home to my wife, she sniffs,
"it looks like a real book --
too bad it isn't in english."

later a former wife calls me
about our kids
and i tell her about the german book
and how a number of our mutual friends
were involved in the cover photo,
art work, frontispiece, and afterword,
and she says, "it sounds incestuous."

later i get in a fight with my present wife
over whether my former wife
has deliberately complicated
some travel plans of ours.

she goes to bed
and i sit up by myself
finishing some cheap champagne,
some saki, and some other left-over wine,
celebrating the publication
of the german book.

since i don't read german
i mostly just admire the pictures of me

done by my incestuous friends.
if the book makes any money,
maybe i can afford another ex-wife.

WHY OUR SPECIES HAS SURVIVED

i notice that
whenever i give my little boy
a cookie or cracker or handful of popcorn
to feed the pigeons
he eats it.

THE FOURTH VOLUME OF THE SNOPE'S TRILOGY

an associated press story, datelined carson city,
reports a gift of 700 dollars
from the "lords of sin" motorcycle club
to the eagle valley children's home.
the gift certificate and other presents
were delivered by 13 bikers on their choppers.

jan parks, eagle valley nursing director,
was quoted as saying, "the kids love it.
after all, how many santas are the leader
of a motorcycle gang."

"we do it mainly for the kids," (*italics mine*)
said bryan corey, lords of iron president,
who played santa.

the visit "helps show the public
we're not always (*italics mine*)
running around hurting people," he added.
"we also (*italics mine*) have a soft spot."

WHIP WITHOUT CARROT

in the same delivery i received
my estimated tax forms
and a summons to jury duty.

i searched the rest of the mail
but couldn't find
my good citizen certificate.

-- Gerald Locklin

Long Beach CA